(a) whether he is aware that all the National Highways in Orissa have been badly damaged due to continuous rain and heavy floods in the current year;

(b) if so, the amount which has been provided to the State for repairing the National Highways; and

(c) the additional amount that Government is considering to provide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 27.72 crore under Periodical Renewal and Rs. 9.22 crore under Flood Damage Repair have been provided to the State for repairing the damaged National Highways during the current year.

(c) There is no proposal to allocate additional fund during the current year.

Renaming of NHs

1985. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to have a scientific systematic and meaningful identity and has invited bids for a 'rationalised' numbering system for 66,754 kms. of National Highways;

(b) if so, whether it would replace current NH-1 to NH-228 numbering system;

(c) whether this plan is to rename National Highways with a sophisticated numbering system that is direction and area specific and is based on an easy to understand grid;

(d) whether it is proposed to follow international practices in the matter;

(e) if so, whether Government is also considering to have a new post proposed for managing Public Private Partnership projects in National Highways; and

(f) if so, to what extent these measures would help highways to improve its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) This Ministry, as a part of its initiative for rationalization of numbering system of National Highways (NHs) in the country, had invited the bids from the Consultants empanelled with the Ministry for Traffic and Transportation studies for proposed consultancy services. However, due to the poor response received from the bidders, the Ministry decided to carry out the work departmentally. Accordingly, a Committee of Chief Engineers has been constituted in this Ministry to make suitable recommendations for rationalization of numbering system of NHs in the country so as to replace the current numbering

system of NHs. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include the objective of evolving a rational method of re-numbering the NHs reflecting the connectivity preferably in alphanumeric form, duly considering the direction of NHs.

(e) and (f) For managing Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects, the Government has approved creation of an additional post of Member (PPP) in the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for enabling effective implementation of NH projects on PPP mode.

DPR for NH-14 in Rajasthan

†1986. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DPR of Kishangarh-Ajmer- Byavar road (NH-8) has been prepared by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) whether tender has not been invited for Byavar-Pali-Sirohi-Pidwada road (NH-14);

(c) by when this tender would be invited; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Tenders for Beawar-Pali-Pindwara road (NH-14) have been invited for widening to 4-lane.

(c) and (d) Approval of the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar road (NH-8) has been obtained. The process for prequalification and shortlisting of bidders has been completed for inviting financial bids by March, 2009. For Beawar-Pali-Sirohi-Pindwara road (NH-14), the preparation of feasibility report has been undertaken.

World Bank assistance for NH projects

1987. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank is seriously considering to suspend the disbursement of funds for National Highway projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to address safety concerns on these projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.